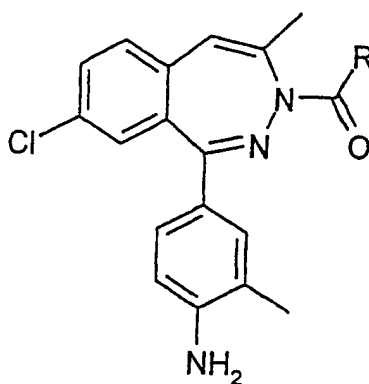


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 through 14 (canceled)

15. (new) A compound of the formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R is a lower alkyl group or a group of the formula-NH-R¹, wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl or a lower cycloalkyl group), or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

16. (new) The compound of the formula (I) as defined in claim 15, wherein R is C₁ to C₄ alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

17. (new) The compound of the formula (I) as defined in claim 16, wherein R is methyl or ethyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

1 18. (new) The compound of the formula (I) as defined in
2 claim 1, wherein R is a group of the formula-NH-R¹, and R¹ is a C₁
3 to C₄ alkyl or a C₃ to C₆ cycloalkyl group, or a pharmaceutically
4 acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

1 19. (new) The compound of the formula (I) as defined in
2 claim 18, wherein R¹ is a methyl or a cyclopropyl group, or a
3 pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

1 20. (new) The compound of the formula (I) as defined in
2 claim 15, selected from the group consisting of:

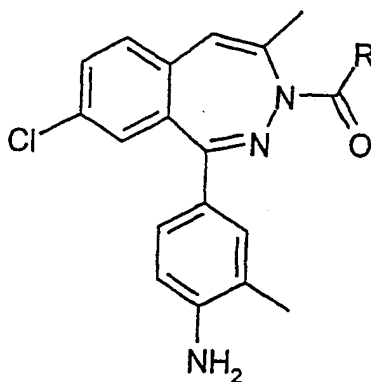
3 (a) 1-(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)-8-chloro-4-methyl-3H-2,3-
4 benzodiazepine 3-carboxylic acid methyl amide;

5 (b) 1-(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)-8-chloro-4-methyl-3H-2,3-
6 benzodiazepine-3-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl amide;

7 (c) 3-acetyl-1-(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)-8-chloro-4-
8 methyl-3H-2,3-benzodiazepine; and

9 (d) 3-propionyl-1-(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)-8-chloro-
10 4-methyl-3H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable
11 acid addition salt thereof.

21. (new) A process for the preparation of a compound of
the formula (I)



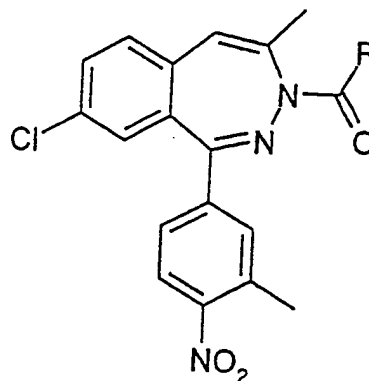
(I)

wherein

R is a C₁ to C₆ alkyl group or a group of the formula -NH-R¹, wherein

R¹ is a C₁ to C₆ alkyl or a C₃ to C₇ cycloalkyl group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, which comprises

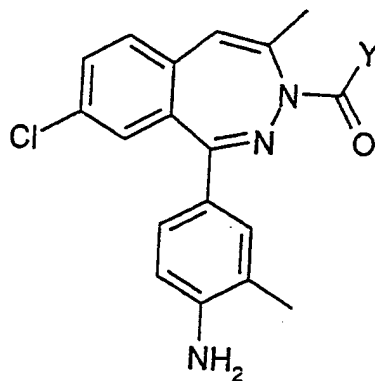
(a) reducing a compound of the formula (II),



(II)

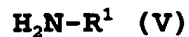
wherein R is as stated above; or
for the preparation of a compound of the formula
(I) wherein R is specifically a group of the formula-NH-R¹, wherein
R¹ is as stated above,

(b) reacting a compound of the formula (IV),



(IV)

wherein Y is a lower alkyl group or a leaving
group, with a compound of the formula (V),

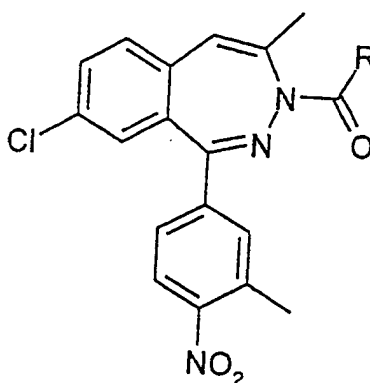


wherein R¹ is as stated above,
and, if desired, converting the compound of the formula (I) thus
obtained into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt
thereof.

1 22. (new) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a
2 central nervous system disorder comprising as active ingredient a
3 therapeutically effective amount of the compound of the formula (I)
4 as defined in claim 15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid
5 addition salt thereof in admixture with an inert solid or liquid
6 carriers and/or auxiliary agent.

1 23. (new) A method of treating a patient suffering from
2 a central nervous system disorder, which comprises the step of
3 administering to said patient in need of such treatment, a
4 therapeutically effective amount of the compound of the formula (I)
5 as defined in claim 15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid
6 addition salt thereof.

1 24. (new) A compound of the formula (II)

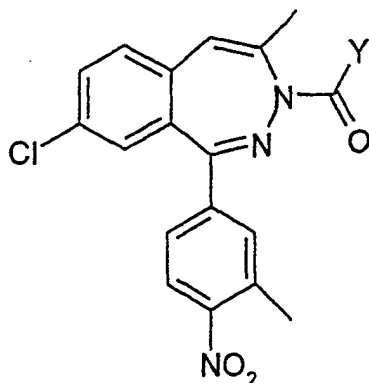


(II)

3 wherein R is a lower alkyl group or a group of the formula-NH-R¹,
4 wherein

5 R^1 is a lower alkyl or a lower cycloalkyl group), or a
6 pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

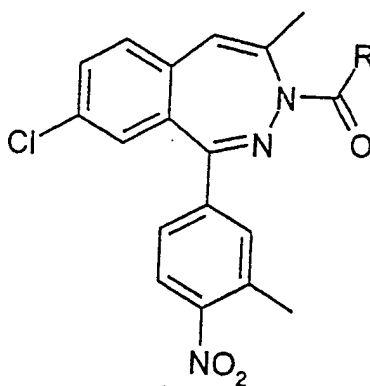
1 25. A compound of the formula (VIII)



(VIII)

3 wherein Y is a leaving group.

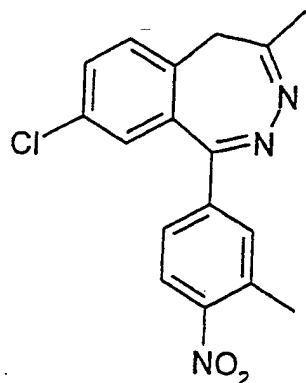
1 26. (New) A process for the preparation of a compound
2 of the formula (II)



(II)

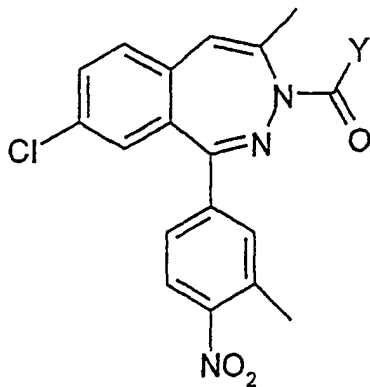
wherein

R is a lower alkyl group or a group of the formula-NH-R¹, wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl or a lower cycloalkyl group), or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof , which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (VII)



(VII)

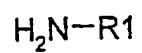
with a reagent capable of introducing a Y group, and reacting the thus-obtained compound of the formula (VIII)



(VIII)

13 with a compound of the formula (V)

14



(V)

15 to obtain the desired product.